

A surgeon of experience will be able in most instances to understand what the author means, but "students of surgery and medicine" and practitioners of average experience will often find it difficult to get aid from the author in the cases requiring careful diagnostic study and judicious treatment for which they consult him.

The present methods of advancing the sale of new books on professional subjects have a tendency to encourage the production and sale of professional works thus carelessly and hastily produced. The absence of frank criticism aids in the dissemination of this class of literature. Scientific books to be valuable must be not only accurate, but free from literary obscurity. It is a belief in the necessity of these attributes that impels the present reviewer to speak in terms which may seem unkind of the volume under examination. The author has undoubtedly produced a book containing much information; but it is by no means so valuable a book of reference as it might have been and would be if it had been written carefully, accurately, and clearly.

J. B. R.

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THE PRACTICE OF SURGERY. By H. R. WHARTON, M.D., and B. F. CURTIS, M.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1898.

THIS is a volume of over eleven hundred pages well printed and admirably illustrated. The whole science of surgery is presented concisely, accurately, and up to the present date. The style of the writing is attractive. It is eminently a practical book.

The latest methods of treatment are very carefully and clearly described.

It is unnecessary and it would be undesirable to present here the details of the various chapters. No text-book of surgery discusses the treatment of surgical diseases in as helpful a way as does this book.

Many differences of opinion will exist always as to the details of any special treatment; but looking through the whole book it may be fairly stated that the most modern views in surgical pathology are enunciated, and that the treatment based upon this pathology is that generally accepted as best.

To the student looking for a text-book this is the one he will find most satisfactory.

To the general practitioner anxious to secure the last and best opinion concisely expressed in any surgical matter, this is the book he will be glad to own.

C. L. S.

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TEXT-BOOK OF NERVOUS DISEASES. By CHARLES L. DANA, A.M., M.D., Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, etc. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. With 246 illustrations. New York: William Wood & Co., 1897.

DR. DANA'S text-book is already so well known, and has been reviewed so often in previous editions, that it seems scarcely necessary here to submit it to extended criticism. It has always seemed to us to

be admirably adapted to the uses of those readers, whether students or practitioners, who want information that is at once full, accurate, condensed, and ready at hand. The author has managed, in remarkably small space in the earlier editions, to traverse the whole field of neurology, giving to each subject only its due proportion of space and elaboration. To be sure, the fourth edition has grown to be a book of considerable bulk, but this was probably inevitable in the hands of a writer who, like Dr. Dana, must feel the need of advancing with his special science while, at the same time, ignoring nothing that has been attained in the past.

It is evident that the fourth edition has been completely revised, and is, in some important particulars, quite a new work. Thus, the chapters on Microscopic Anatomy and on the Anatomy of the Brain and Spinal Cord have been rewritten so as to conform with the prevalent views of the importance of the neuron. How long these views will hold against the work of Apáthy and others no writer can foresee; but we hope it will not be necessary for Dana to rewrite these chapters again for his fifth edition. Important changes have been made also in the chapters on the Peripheral Nervous System, Acute Encephalitis, Multiple and Combined Sclerosis and Neurasthenia. The substitution of many new for old illustrations is a noteworthy feature of this edition, and adds much to its freshness and originality.

Dana is especially conspicuous among neurologists for his practical sense and for his aim to be of some therapeutic service to his patients. This characteristic is well marked in his text-book, and gives it a special value for practitioners.

Among practical, every-day topics we have been especially struck with the author's description and treatment of neurasthenia. This chapter, which is essentially new, is in every sense excellent, and is evidently founded on extensive observation and close acquaintance with the subject. Dana finds that heredity, overwork, worry, injuries, infections, and the abuse of the sexual functions and of alcohol and tobacco are the chief causes. He traces the various forms from simple primary neurasthenia to the anxiety neuroses, or neurasthenia with fixed ideas, and avoids the common error of confounding the affection with others of the neuroses, especially hysteria. From the pathological side he regards neurasthenia as the expression of an hereditarily bad nerve structure, upon which exhausting and depressing agents have been at work. He gives credit to Hodge for demonstrating the changes in the nerve-cell under the influence of fatigue. Cases caused by shock and trauma are thought to be due primarily to changes in the vascular system. Finally, due importance is attached to autogenous poisons acting upon the neurons. In his recommendations for the treatment of this often grave and obstinate affection, Dana goes carefully into details and criticism of the various plans most in vogue, and, in fine, presents us with a chapter on the whole subject that is a most valuable feature of this latest edition of his book. We especially recommend it to those who do not make a specialty of nervous diseases and who want a clear and concise statement of facts.

Among new chapters is one on alcoholic meningitis—the serous meningitis or “wet-brain” of some writers. This is the condition often found in cases of chronic alcoholic poisoning, and, according to the author, is really not a meningitis, but a toxemia of the brain, with serous effu-

sion. This important disease is described in full, and we wonder as we read, and recall what we also have seen at autopsies, that it has not been more fully recognized as a disease-entity by other writers than it has.

In conclusion, we need only say that in his fourth edition Dana not only maintains but adds to the reputation of his text-book.

J. H. L.

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A MANUAL OF CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS BY MEANS OF MICROSCOPIC AND CHEMICAL METHODS, FOR STUDENTS, HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS, AND PRACTITIONERS. By CHARLES E. SIMON, M.D., late Assistant Resident Physician, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; Fellow of the American Academy of Medicine. Second edition, revised and enlarged. With 133 illustrations on wood, and 14 colored plates. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1897.

It is such a short time since the reviewer wrote a critique of Simon's *Clinical Diagnosis* for this JOURNAL (March, 1897), that but a brief word concerning the second edition will be necessary. The fact of the early exhaustion of the first edition is the most commendatory tribute to the work that can be spoken. The book has touched a popular chord and has been found of practical value as a laboratory guide.

For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the character of the work, it may be said that it treats only of diagnosis by means of microscopic and chemical methods, resembling in its scope Jaksch's *Diagnosis*. Chemical and microscopic methods are described in such detail that even the student or practitioner who has not had special training in such manipulations will, by a little practice, be enabled to obtain satisfactory results. The special value of these methods as diagnostic aids, the conclusions one may reach from positive or negative results thus obtained, are clearly set forth. There is a praiseworthy discrimination shown in the selection of methods, only those being described that are simplest, most reliable, and most practical. Both in the descriptions of methods and the deductions to be drawn from various manipulations one is made conscious that the author is not giving a mere textbook- or second-hand picture, but that he himself has by personal experience qualified himself to pass competent judgment upon them.

The subjects treated are the blood, the secretions of the mouth, the gastric juice, feces, nasal secretions, sputum, urine, transudates, exudates, cystic contents, semen, vaginal discharges, and milk.

In this second edition there have been omitted some of the older and more complicated methods of chemical examination, while others more exact and more recent have been added. The volume is larger by fifty pages than the first edition. "The parasitology and bacteriology of the blood, saliva, feces, urine, and vaginal discharges have been almost entirely rewritten."

Widal's reaction is clearly described; Neusser's basophilic granules are mentioned; lumbar puncture and the examination of the cerebrospinal fluid are fully considered; the Boas-Oppler bacillus is accorded recognition; Rieder's investigations of the cells in pleural exudates

are noted, and everywhere one finds evidence that the endeavor to bring the present edition thoroughly up to date has been successful.

No matter how skilled a physician may be in his ability to cross-question a patient and elicit facts of aid in establishing a diagnosis; no matter how erudite his touch or how delicate his sense of hearing as he makes a physical examination; no matter how judiciously he weighs the facts gathered by subjective and objective examination, he must, in a large number of cases, call to his aid the microscope and the test-tube before reaching his decision. Sputum and urine and blood have to be interrogated by the modern clinical methods before a scientific conclusion is reached. To those aiming to equip themselves so as to be able to make these thorough examinations that lead to the comprehensive diagnosis, Simon's work is a most valuable and reliable guide—practical, clear, concise, up to date. J. B. H.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY. By JAMES E. MOORE, M.D. Illustrated. Octavo, pp. 354. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1898.

THIS book is written from the stand-point of a general surgeon who has taught orthopedic surgery for the past ten years, and who believes that the orthopedic surgeon should know when and how to operate. The book is written as a text-book for students and as a ready-reference book for general practitioners. In its dual capacity it is more likely to be consulted as a reference-book by general practitioners than it is to be used as a text-book by students in the medical colleges, since there are better books for the latter purpose already in use. There is much in the book that is practical and safe, and some of the sections are particularly good. It is to be regretted, however, that in considering the scope of orthopedic surgery no classification has been adopted, and the limits of this special branch of surgery have not been clearly defined. The subject of lateral curvature represents the modern methods of treatment, and the section upon the treatment of cold abscesses represents the middle ground occupied by the best orthopedic surgeons of to-day. The treatment by incision, antiseptic irrigation, and immediate hermetic closing of the wound is highly recommended and indorsed by the writer of this review. The subject of internal derangement of the knee is suggestive of confusion of pathological ideas, and as such had better been omitted.

The illustrations are remarkably good, most of them taken from actual cases, and the book reflects credit on the publisher, and should add greatly to the already excellent reputation of the author.

J. K. Y.

CLINICAL METHODS: A GUIDE TO THE PRACTICAL STUDY OF MEDICINE. By ROBERT HUTCHISON, M.D., M.R.C.P., and HARRY RAINY, M.A., F.R.C.P. EDIN., F.R.S.E. With 137 illustrations and 8 colored plates. Pp. 552. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co.

IN the preface the authors state that their work is not intended as a treatise upon medical diagnosis, but that it aims rather at describing